

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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B. Armed Forces

I. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)

Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

Soviet press reports of 4 Sep mentioned for the first time Gen Koshevo as Commander and Major Gen Shanin as Chief-of-Staff of the Siberian MD.

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C. ArmyI. USSR1. Order of Battlea. Hungary

In Aug 1953, the so-called Al-Kaserne on the north-eastern periphery of Pecs was occupied by Soviet troops. About 300-400 soldiers and 6 JS-3 tanks with 122-mm guns were observed practicing at the tng area [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. A unit (Regt?) of the u/1 Div Dombovar was concerned.

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The u/1 Tank Div which had transferred to the Karpatho-Ukraine from Hungary, has no longer been observed there after Sep 1958 [redacted]

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b. GDR

2 Sep, Frankfurt/Oder: unloading and departure in the direction of Horn Kaserne (4445) of 2 shipments, including 20 hv AA guns towed by prime movers, 5 fire control predictors towed by prime movers, 20 trucks loaded with ammunition boxes, radio trucks, and field kitchens [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Return presumably of elms/32nd AAA Div/GSFG to Wustrow from firing practices. Units of this Div have so far been carried in the Artillerie Kaserne (4442) only.

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2. Training (GDR)

The first major fall exercise was held in the Letzlinger Heide-Altengrabow area, in addition to continued advanced training at unit level.

The following was observed:

a. Exercise in the Letzlinger Heide-Altengrabow Area after 13 September 1958

5 Sep, Doeberitz post only lightly occupied;

7 Sep, 1 arty shpmt from Stendal railroad station in the direction of Gardelagen;

7 Sep, 1 shpmt with tanks and arty pieces on Dallgow-Wustermark railroad line;

8 Sep, Eberswalde: entraining of an engr unit with about 10 K-61s and a tank unit with about 20 tanks;

[redacted] Blesenthal in western direction;

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9 Sep, Eberswalde: between 1830 and 2100, 4 columns proceeding from the direction of Artillerie Kaserne in western direction included 8x57-mm AT guns, 8x120-mm mortars, 5x85-mm divisional guns or 100-mm field guns, 3x57-mm AA guns, 4 ZPU-4s, 12 M-13 or B4-24 RLs, 12 trucks with pontoons, 63x6x6 APCs, 7x4x4 APCs, 17 field kitchens, trucks with personnel, signal and tank vehicles, trucks mostly with camouflage

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major elms 6th Gds Mecz Div,
presumably elms 1st Mecz Div,
elms 63rd AAA Div,)
elms 3rd Engr Regt,) Twentieth Army
elms u/i amph unit Beeskow,)

elms 32nd AAA Div,)
possibly elms 6th Arty Div,) GSPG
elms Twenty-Fourth Air Army.)

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Comment. Other observations tend to indicate that a fight for the Elbe River crossing north of Magdeburg, presumably with two river crossing points, was under way in the afternoon of 13 Sep. Information received does not permit a detailed description of the practice.

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b. Training at or Near Tng Grounds

(1) Koenigsbrueck Tng Grounds

26 Aug, entraining in Riesa presumably of elms/216th (?) AAA Regt/9th Tank Div and elms/Hv SP Gun Bn/9th Tank Div with 4 SU-57/2s, 12 T-54s, 12 presumably JSU-122s, 3x57-mm AA guns towed by prime movers, 4 prime movers with radar and fire control equipment, APCs and trucks. Other information indicates that the T-54s were unloaded at Schwepnitz railroad station on 27 Aug. In previous years, elms of this Div occasionally practiced at Koenigsbrueck tng grounds;

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2, 3 and 5 Sep, entraining in Schwepnitz of 2 shpmts with JS tanks and 1 shpmt with about 20 M4-24s on M-54 prime movers. The tank units cannot yet be identified; possibly elms of the troops unloaded in Schwepnitz in late August have been involved. The RL shipment may have involved in 53rd RL Bn/11th Gds Tank Div from Chemnitz, Ebersdorfer Kaserne (1244);

(2) Speck-Granzin Tng Grounds

24 Aug from the 5 shpmts to Kargow on 24 and 27 Aug, - 3 Sep, including 2 from Holthusen and 3 from Lalendorf, and 3 return shpmts on 1 and 3 Sep, it may be concluded that units/9th Gds Tank Div from Schwerin and Guestrow-Primervald transferred to this tng grounds for short-term practices;

(c) Ohrdruf Tng Grounds

27 and 30 Aug, it can be assumed that elms/128th Gds Arty Regt/57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (Mecz) practiced at this tng grounds, since an arty column left Langensalza, Kaserne Thamsbrueckerstrasse (8231) on 27 Aug, and a column of the same composition entered the Kaserne on 30 Aug;

(d) Zeithain Tng Grounds

2 Sep, u/i units, with a total of about 100 vehicles, including arty pieces and half-track M-3 APCs, arrived at Zeithain tng grounds from the direction of Goertzig and Lichtensee;

4 Sep, Riesa: loading of 2 shpmts presumably with elms/8th Gds Mecz Div after exercises presumably held at Zeithain tng grounds. The observation of elms/Third Gds Mecz Army in this area is unusual, since, so far, this area has been utilized by elms/First Gds Mecz Army (Tank) only.

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(5) Engr Tng Grounds South Muehlberg

1/2 Sep, after a tank crossing practice during the night of 1/2 Sep, a pontoon bridge across the Elbe River was dismantled and an engr column with about 120-140 pontoons, presumably the u/i Engr Regt/First Gds Mecz Army (Tank) and 134th Gds Engr Bn/11th Gds Tank Div, departed in the direction of Passnitz-Sahlassan. The units had transferred to the tng grounds in mid-August.

(6) Unknown Training Area

6 Sep, according to the entraining of tank elms, presumably of Mtz Rifle Regt/8th Gds Mecz Div, Leipzig-Schoenau [] in Leipzig-Plagwitz, elms of this regt presumably transferred to another tng grounds.

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c. Arty Training

4 and 5 elms/34th Arty Div/GSFG returned from Magdeburg distr, Sep, presumably from firing practices at a tng grounds in 4 shpmts including 2 to Satz Korn, 1 to Wildpark and 1 to Werder.

d. AAA Training

1-11 Sep, A total of 21 shpmts returned from Wustrow AAA firing range to various posts in the GDR, including elms/31st AAA Div (2 shpmts), elms/32nd AAA Div (2 shpmts), elms/63rd AAA Div (4 shpmts), and major AAA elms/Eighth Gds Army (Mecz) and Third Shock Army (Mecz). Wustrow firing range was allegedly no longer to be used by firing units until late 1956.

4 Sep, elms/AAA Regt/10th Gds Tank Div returned to their post in 3 shpmts presumably from firing practices possibly held at Altengrabow []

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[] Comment. Intensive training activities by GSFG, especially at tng grounds, continued throughout the first half of Sep. In addition to training up to reinforced regimental level, the first large fall maneuver was held, with air force units participating. As had been expected, the bulk of the AAA units returned to their posts from Wustrow firing range.

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II. GDR1. Training

a. On 31 Aug and 1 Sep, units/1st AAA Regt and units/6th AAA Regt, which had transferred to Wustrow for firing practices, returned to their posts []

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[] Comment. Units of the AAA Officer School which had left on 18 Aug, might have returned on 7 Sep. []

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[] It can be
assumed that the remaining units will leave the firing range one of these days.

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- b. Elms/7th Arty Regt, which had been stationed at a summer camp, allegedly at Zuellsdorf tng grounds, for 3 ½ weeks until 18 Aug, departed on 28 Aug, together with units/7th AAA Regt, allegedly for exercises of several weeks at Nochten tng grounds [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Comment. During the last few months, Zuellsdorf tng grounds has apparently not only been occupied by units/11th Itz Rifle Div but repeatedly also by units/7th Tank Div [redacted] 25X1
- c. The 7th Engr Bn was expected to return to its post on 19 Aug [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Comment. This info, in connection with the considerably reduced occupation of the water tng site northeast of Dessau at about the same time, tends to indicate that special engr tng at the water tng site terminated in the second half of Aug. [redacted] 25X1
- d. On 22 and 25/26 Aug, additional units/28th Itz Rifle Regt and 16/h Arty Regt returned from Luebtheen tng grounds to Rostock and Prora/Ruegen, respectively [redacted] 25X1
- In late Aug, major elms of Schwerin-Stern (Buchholz) garrison transferred to Wittstock or Luebtheen tng grounds for several-day practices [redacted] 25X1
- e. Between 25 Aug and 4 Sep, units/6th Itz Rifle Div have presumably also been stationed at Luebtheen tng grounds [redacted] 25X1
- f. On 3 Sep. units/1st Arty Regt transferred to Kietz tng grounds [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted]
- g. Between 31 Aug and 3 Sep, mtz rifle units, at least in the strength of a regiment, engr(and artv?) units passed through Eisenach in northern direction [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Comment. The Werra River section in the Mihla area had been used as engr training area already in previous years. The 4th Itz Rifle Div and/or the 22nd and/or 23rd Rifle Regt may have practiced in this area at reinforced regimental level according to vague indications, these practices ended on 10 Sep. 25X1
- h. Between 6 and 10 Sep, units of various branches of service of Potsdam garrison left for exercises which allegedly were to last 14 days and were to involve also Soviet units. During the same time, heavy units from Stahnsdorf and Oranienburg transferred by rail in western direction [redacted] 25X1
- In the late afternoon of 9 Sep, AAA units which, after a short interval were followed by Soviet units, passed through Rathenow in east-western direction [redacted] 25X1

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Comment. A participation of units/1st Mtz Rifle Div in the beforementioned Soviet exercises (see part C, I, B, 1) cannot yet be determined; however, in this connection, the following indications may be of importance:

- (1) Training activities of units of Oranienburg garrison in Letzlinger Heide during the first week of Aug;
- (2) Training activities of NVA units in the northern part of Letzlinger Heide and simultaneous alert and march practices of Potsdam garrison during the last week of Aug;
- (3) Joint Soviet Army/NVA exercises scheduled to be held in the above area, as in 1957.

III. Poland

Order of Battle

In June 1958, the 38th Mecz Regt [] o/o Lt Col Kluczinski, wearing black cap bands, was stationed in Freystadt; the Regt, which was subordinate to the 11th Tank Div in Sagan, was organized as follows:

3 Mecz Bns with each
 3 Mecz Companies, each of 65 men and
 1 Mortar Company of 40 men;
 1 Tank Bn with 2 Tank Companies (equipped with T-34/76s), each with 65 men and 1 Tng Company (110 men);
 1 Arty Bn with 2 Gun Batteries (76 and 122-mm guns), each with 85 men and 1 AAA Battery (30 men);
 1 Signal Company (75 men);
 1 rcn unit (BTR);
 ABC detail;
 supply unit;

The Regt had a total strength of 1,200 men []

Comment. Prior to the fusion of the 4th and 5th Div in May 1957, the 38th Mecz Regt (Freystadt) had been attached to the 4th Div (Crossen/O) [] The information on organization and strength of the Regt corresponds to previous observations [] The organization of the 11th Tank Div with now three Mecz Regts requires further clarification. Other information tends to indicate that the 40th Mecz Regt (Bunzlau) of the 11th Tank Div was attached to the 10th Tank Div (Oppeln). Confirmation is, however, required.

IV. Rumania

Order of Battle

In July 1958, a barracks installation in Lipova, 50 km northeast Timisoara, which had been vacated by Soviet troops, was occupied by a Rumanian unit, allegedly an infantry unit []

Comment. Lipova was evacuated by Soviet troops in mid-July 1958. []

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In June 1958, a barracks in Sacalaz, 9 km west Timisoara, was occupied by a Rumanian unit with tanks and self-propelled artillery pieces. Within the framework of the reduction of personnel strength in the Rumanian Army, an officer of this unit was to be discharged in the near future


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D. Air ForceI. USSR1. Order of Battlea. Garz Airfield

On 6 August 1958 it was learned that Garz airfield was occupied by Soviet MiG-17s. The flying unit of Peenemuende had been transferred because of construction work 

25X1


 Comment. The Peenemuende Fighter Regiment has transferred from Peenemuende to Garz because of construction work.

b. Peenemuende Airfield

On 28 and 29 August 1958, no aircraft, no air activity and no AAA were observed at Peenemuende airfield; the radar sets were demounted 


25X1

2. Command and Training of Troopsa. Joint Practice of the GSFG Army and Air Force

According to information obtained so far, the joint exercise of the GSFG in the area of Ietzlinger Heide - Altengrabow involved the 6th Gds Mecz Div, the 1st Mecz Div, the 63rd AAA Div, and other army troops as well as units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army such as Zerbst Ftr Div with 2 fighter regiments from Jueterbog and presumably elements of Rnr Div Werneuchen. After its transfer, one of the Jueterbog fighter regiments made sorties from Zerbst or Altengrabow. The fighters were engaged in air space control over the combat zone, combat reconnaissance (partly by means of aerial photographs), and ground attack operations. From about 0530 on 13 September until about 1800 on 14 September, the air force units were observed participating in the exercise 

25X1

b. Air Activity of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army

Apart from the participation in an army exercise by elements of the Zerbst Fighter Division on 13 and 14 September 1958, there was regular training activity by the flying units between 9 and 15 September. From time to time, training concentrated on landing and pull-out practices. Intermediate landings by elements of fighter units at other airfields were again observed 

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3. Logisticsa. Brandis-Polens Airfield

Between 15 August and 4 September 1958, no aircraft were observed at Brandis-Polens airfield: the barracks installations and other buildings were only slightly occupied. The guard at the main gate wore a uniform with blue service color and had his bayonet fixed. The watch towers in the south were not occupied. New off limit signs with English and French inscriptions were observed. Between 21 and 24 August 1958, 1 freight train with 30 to 40 railroad cars was observed on the spur track. On 24 August, 16 large fuel tanks each with a capacity of about 15,000 liters were observed at the edge of the wood; the runway was being cleaned of grass. On 28 August, a truck, a tar-kiln with boiling tar and 2 tippers with sand were observed for the first time during the improvement work on the runway with 10 Soviets being employed: the freight train was observed at the same place as on 21 August. On 4 September 1958, improvement work on the runway continued by 20 to 24 workers including 6 to 8 Soviets: the freight train was no longer seen [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Improvement work was presumably carried out in order to make the airfield ready for action and occupation during the fall maneuvers.

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b. Weimar-Nohra Airfield

On 23 August 1958, about 10 Mi-4 helicopters and several monoplanes of u/1 type were observed at Weimar-Nohra airfield. During favorable weather, continuous air activity was observed until 25 August 1958, including night air activity by monoplanes during 3 or 4 nights [redacted]

25X1

On 30 August 1958, 6 three-wing helicopters and 3 high-wing aircraft were observed on the field near the temporary buildings north of the road. An air force captain was seen on the road between the airfield and Weimar [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] Comment. The headquarters of the Eighth Gds Army (Necz) is stationed at Weimar-Nohra.

c. Airfield Construction at Neuhausen

The following observations were made on 3 September 1958:

- (1) Until late 1958, withdrawal of Bau-Union Sued (Construction Union South), earmarked elements already loaded. Further construction work (buildings) scheduled to be executed by Bau-Union Frankfurt/Oder and Kreisbauhof Seelow (District Construction Union).

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- (2) Northern taxiway with apron completed. Southern taxiway completed except for connecting lane.
- (3) During the period of observation, surveying of a presumable fuel line (pipeline) extending from Trebnitz railroad station via Wulkow to the airfield fuel dump.
- (4) Laying of underground telephone cables in the Quappendorf-Neuhardenberg-Platkow area.
- (5) In mid-August, a biplane allegedly from Strausberg with an NVA general on board landed on the runway. After an airfield inspection, the general complained about slow work and ordered acceleration.
- (6) The barracks installation was not occupied except for a signal platoon.
- (7) After completed work, the airfield was scheduled to be turned over to an NVA/1 [redacted] 25X1

d. Air Force Construction Project at Kummersdorf

Between 29 August and 2 September 1958, about 30 railroad cars with pierced steel planks (PSP) arrived at the spur track where they were loaded on Soviet trucks and conveyed to Kummersdorf firing range [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Comment. The arrival of the pierced steel planks is reported for the first time; they are presumably intended to be used for covering a runway. Further shipments are to be expected. 25X1

e. Mahlwinkel Airfield

On 4 September 1958, only a guard detail of 2 Soviet soldiers with field shoulder straps, without insignia, were observed at the airfield [redacted] 25X1

f. Barth Airfield

During the summer of 1958, only civil air traffic, i.e. long-distance flights and circuits by the East Zone Lufthansa, was observed at Barth airfield. The concrete runway which was 1,250 x 80 meters large was intact. The southern and eastern borders of the landing field had a mesh wire fence. At the beginning of the approach road along highway No 195, a small flat building (presumably guardhouse) was newly constructed. No other changes were observed [redacted] 25X1

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II. "GDR"

1. Order of Battlea. Bautzen-Litten Airfield

On 20 August 1958, intensive trainer air activity by MiG/UMiG 15s was observed at Bautzen-Litten airfield. Between 1400 and 1600 on that day, at least 20 MiG-15s left the airfield in pairs, but did not return. At about 1800, 41 canvas-covered MiG/UMiG-15s were parked at the airfield; at 1820, 3 UMiG/15s landed. Around 20 August 1958, the occupation was presumably stronger than before [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. The presence of MiG-15s from other airfields is not known. According to other information [redacted] about 40 MiG-15s, 20 UMiG-15s, 1 AN-2 and 1 Yak-18 were stationed at Bautzen in July 1958. So far, 45 MiG/UMiG-15s have been determined.

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b. Rothenburg Airfield

On 5 September 1958, Rothenburg airfield was occupied by 26 MiG-17s [redacted] and 2 UMiG-15s [redacted] Firing at ground targets with aircraft armament was observed at Nochten airfield. Air activity was conducted only in good weather as the pilots' status of training allegedly was not sufficient for bad-weather flights. The pilots were nicknamed "good-weather pilots". The transfer of the unit was allegedly scheduled [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Rothenburg airfield was occupied by the 2nd Fighter Wing. The rumors concerning the transfer are presumably connected with the return of the airfield to the Soviets.

c. Cottbus Airfield

In early August 1958, 12 MiG-17s transferred from Drewitz to Cottbus. These aircraft were replaced by the same number of MiG-17s manufactured in Poland or Czechoslovakia. In late August 1958, Cottbus airfield was occupied by about 8 UMiG-15s and 32 MiG-17s. [redacted]

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[redacted] Cottbus airfield will still be handed over to the East Zone Lufthansa in 1958 [redacted]

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Comment. Exchange of MiG-17s presumably with the aim of equipping the wings with MiG-17s either of Polish or Czech make. About 30 MiG-17s have been assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing for a long period already. The newly arrived MiG-17s have presumably been used to fill up the authorized aircraft strength of the 9th Fighter Wing which reportedly has been equipped with only 8 MiG-17s so far. The handing over of Cottbus airfield to the East Zone Lufthansa is rather doubtful, as there is no necessity to do so.

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2. Command and Training of Troops

Between August and 4 September 1958, intensive training activity during day and night time was conducted at Drewitz airfield. During day time, all types of flight training were carried out including attacks at targets on the landing field by MiG-17s flying in pairs at an altitude of 1,000 meters at an angle of inclination of 45 degrees, and pulling-out at an altitude of 100 to 150 meters. Circuits and cross-country flights were performed during night time. No airfield boundary or obstacle lights were observed, only a flare path was available

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Comment. Drewitz airfield is still occupied by the 7th and the 9th Fighter Wings.

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III. Yugoslavia

1. Order of Battle

Prior to September 1956 (period of observation), Beograd-Pancevo (44 54 N/20 39 E) airfield was occupied by the 101st Yugoslav Independent Air Observation Battalion (eye - ear) Pancevo, which was directly subordinate to the VII Air Force Corps at Zemun (44 49 N / 20 25 E). The battalion had to observe the air space in the area of the VII Air Force Corps. The battalion was organized as follows:

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battalion headquarters and 4 companies:

1st Company at Pozarevac (44 37 N/ 21 12 E), eye- and ear observation

2nd Company at Pancevo, eye and ear observation

3rd Company at Pancevo, with radio and telephone operators

4th Company at Pancevo, with trained signal and radar personnel.

The 4th Company furnished the personnel for the radar stations which were directly subordinate to the VII Air Force Corps

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2. Command and Training of Troops

During the period of observation, prior to September 1956, a pilot school of the Yugoslav Air Force for initial pilot training and helicopter pilot training as well as an AAA section were also stationed at Beograd-Fancevo (44 54 N/ 20 39 E) airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. The pilot school is known.

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F. Premilitary and Paramilitary OrganizationsI. GDR1. Militia and Police UnitsGerman Border Police (DGP)

- a. In July 1958, Tng Co Meissner was the only unit of Polit Officer School Gross-Glienicke (C/O Major Bartz) which completed its 30-km march practice at the summer camp without any casualties. The practice included crossing of a lake on amphibious vehicles of a Soviet unit with subsequent combat in woods against parachute troops [redacted]

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- b. In June 1958, 20-km marches with full field equipment including firing practices were conducted by the Bereitschaften on occasion of athletic festivals, with individual companies competing with each other [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Similar to procedures with the NVA, efforts have been made since the beginning of 1958 to raise the training level of DGP and BP units by competitions under the supervision of party organs, particularly in the field of infantry training and ordnance engineering; these measures have proved successful.

- c. Between February and late September 1958, training courses on SU-76s were to be held for groups of about 50 GP men each by NVA tank units [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Similar courses had already been held by the NVA in April 1957. [redacted]

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2. Premilitary and Paramilitary Organizationsa. Combat Groups (KG)

The following supplementary information [redacted]

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[redacted] has been obtained on the third training quarter:

Attack and defense of platoons at day and night were generally practiced on weekends. Increasing importance was attached to night training [redacted]

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On 2 and 3 August, KGs from Potsdam, under the direction of the DVP, conducted an exercise against KGs from the Beelitz area between Seddin and Lanzerwisch, allegedly with SU-76s and 57-mm AT guns [redacted]

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On 27 August, a 3-day exercise of KGs from the Leipzig area started in the Duebener Heide. Some 60 trucks with KG members without heavy weapons were seen on the Leipzig-Dueben road [REDACTED]

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In June, a large-scale KG exercise in Halle included the construction of emergency bridges [REDACTED]

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Not only Hundertschaft (HS) commanders but mainly VPKA chiefs were in charge of the regular conducting of mock alerts [REDACTED]

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KG training is principally conducted with DVP weapons, ammunition, and equipment exclusively. KGs are equipped with model 41 and/or 44 submachine guns, in addition to rifles and light machine guns [REDACTED]

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During the fourth quarter of the year, KG exercises at Kreis level were to be conducted in all Kreise in order to give leading party organs a general idea of the political and military training level of the KGs [REDACTED]

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b. Amt fuer Zoll und Kontrolle des Warenverkehrs (AZKW)

The turning-over of the Kontrollpassierpunkte (border control points) (KPP) along the demarcation line and the Berlin West Ring by the Amt fuer Zoll und Kontrolle des Warenverkehrs (Office for Customs and Control of Traffic of Goods) (AZKW) had been completed by 15 August. All "observers" and "passport officers" of the DGP, as well as some 250 members of the abovementioned KPPs, have been taken over by the AZKW. The latter was to be attached to the DGP teletype net, while its inclusion into the border communication net had already been completed in July. The AZKW headquarters was reportedly preparing suggestions for the turning-over of control missions at the customs frontiers of the coast, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Berlin East Sector scheduled for the spring of 1959 [REDACTED]

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Comment. The planned turning-over of KPPs to the AZKW had repeatedly been postponed because of personnel shortages. [REDACTED]

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